



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

desideratum—a working bibliography, with marginal notes: both, however, in need of large additions.

There are, however, obvious defects. The treatment of questions of anthropology and ethnology is out of date, and needs to be checked by reference to Ripley's *Races of Europe*. The arrangement is faulty; e. g., the invention of the steam engine is recounted after Gladstone's last administration. Historical facts are sometimes loosely stated: e. g., "the scramble for the possession of the dark continent" really began with Germany, not England, as asserted on p. 490. There are such obvious slips as "pax Romanum" (p. 22) and "He is the only one who *have*" (p. 44). But the most fundamental fault is a marked weakness in the treatment of economic matters: such books as Bücher's *Entstehung der Volkswirtschaft* and Schmoller's *Mercantile System* might have been consulted with profit. For example, there is no clear analysis of the economic causes for the growth and decay of feudalism, nor of the social and political consequences of division of labor and the development of transportation. In consequence of this the causal relation in history is obscured: events and changes come in the old-time, pre-Darwinian, *deus ex machina*, fashion. This is indeed the one radical defect of the book.

It would be a matter of interest to know why only books in English are referred to. Were no others consulted? Or did the authors assume an ignorance of tongues among high-school teachers?

EDWARD VAN DYKE ROBINSON

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL,  
St. Paul, Minn.

---

#### AMERICAN LITERATURE

*A Short History of American Literature* by WALTER C. BRONSON, designed principally for use in schools and colleges. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1900. 16mo. Pp. x + 374.

"American Literature," by CHARLES F. JOHNSON in his *Outline History of English and American Literature*, pp. 427-545. New York: American Book Company, 1900. 12mo. Pp. 552.

"The American School of Historians," by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART in the *International Monthly*, September 1900, Vol. II, pp. 294-322. Burlington, Vt.

THE number of histories of American literature is constantly swelling. In recent years Professors Brander Matthews, Katharine Lee Bates, Pancoast, Beers, Albert H. Smyth, and several others have essayed volumes in this field. The latest, and one of the best of the briefer histories, comes from the pen of Professor Bronson, of Brown University. In appearance the book is one of the most attractive of recent text-books; and a perusal shows it to be a substantial and valuable contribution to American literary history. "Even the earlier portions," says the author, "are based almost wholly upon a study of the literature at first hand;" for which he has enjoyed peculiar advantages, having access to such important collections as the Harris collection of American poetry and the John Carter Brown Library in Providence. Consequently we expect to find a fresh, unhackneyed treatment of the subject, and we are not disappointed.

The arrangement is in the main equally satisfactory. Minor details of biography, along with much other matter, are compressed into concise footnotes, leaving room in the text for the more salient facts of life history and for critical estimates. The appendix contains extracts from the early literature; brief articles on early newspapers and magazines; a partial bibliography of colonial and Revolutionary literature; and a reference list of books and articles. The last is not well arranged: it would have been better to give each title a paragraph and arrange either chronologically or alphabetically. As it is, however, the bibliography is remarkably full, and, so far as we have tested it, accurate. On p. 345 we fail to find Col. T. W. Higginson's *Contemporaries* (Boston, 1899). Schönbach's *Gesammelte Aufsätze zur neueren Literatur in Deutschland, Österreich, Amerika*, which probably appeared too recently to be included, may be added to p. 346.

The proportion of the book, too, is good. While the leading writers are fully discussed, the author finds room to speak of a larger number of minor authors than are usually mentioned in a book of this size. This has its advantages, even in a high-school history of literature; for the student cannot fail to be impressed with the abundance of our literature as well as by the inferiority of much of it. Some omissions, however, have been noted: Elisha Mulford, author of *The Nation*, Justin Winsor, John Fiske, Henry C. Lea, J. T. Trowbridge, Captain Charles King, Marion Crawford, Henry B. Fuller, Colonel Higginson, Mary Halleck Foote, Ruth McEnery Stuart, Rebecca Harding Davis, and Margaret Deland deserve at least mention. Eugene Field, too (p. 285), was something more than a writer of child poems. Yet these are minor faults; and Mr. Bronson's criticism is careful, rarely extravagant, and, we believe, generally sound.

Few misprints have been noted: Lanier was born in 1842 (p. 287); on p. 345, line 2 f. b., read F. L. Knowles; on p. 368, read M. N. Murfree.

Professor Johnson's brief sketch includes interesting descriptions of a few leading authors and some well chosen extracts. His own criticism he has supplemented by slicing up Lowell's *Fable for Critics*. Since this poem can be easily procured by itself, we can hardly approve of this use of several pages. It is difficult, too, to justify the order of treatment: why should Cooper precede Brockden Brown, or E. R. Sill precede Boker? Still, the author's criticism, as far as it goes, is good. Fuller bibliographical details would have increased the value of the book.

Professor Hart's interesting sketch of American historiography, though written from the point of view of the historian, deserves the attention of students of literature as a concise description of the efforts of Americans, from Bradford to Rhodes, to tell the story of our past, or to discuss themes closely related to the history of America.

CLARK SUTHERLAND NORTHUP

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

---

*A School Latin Grammar.* Prepared by MORRIS H. MORGAN, PH.D.,  
Assistant Professor of Latin in Harvard University, chiefly from Lane's  
*Latin Grammar.* Harper & Brothers, 1899.

PROFESSOR GEORGE M. LANE, of Harvard, died in June 1897, leaving behind him material for a Latin grammar upon which he had been at work for about thirty years. Professor Morgan, who had been requested by Professor Lane to finish the book, found